

Minutes of Regional Council Meeting  
July 11, 2007

Present: Paul Nielson, Tammie Lucero, Kimberly Karren, Greg Todd, Irene Hansen, Bob Peterson, Mark Raymond, Don Ewell, Shelly Fenn, Bill Johnson, Shana Wopsock, Jack Bell, Shirley Weathers, Floyd Wyaskett, Yankton Johnson, Lana Carroll, John Wahl, Randall Bennett, Mark Holmes, Irene Hansen, Jerri Miller, Darlene Burns, Wayne Dunbar, Tom Nordstrom, Brian Raymond, Kevin VanTassell

Staff: Bob Gilbert, Judy Chambley, Margo Weeks, Toni Ansel, JoJo Gale, Tara Connolly

Paul welcomed all to the meeting. Paul welcomed the new members: Floyd Wyaskett, Ute Indian Tribe; Dave Woolstenhulme from USU, Bob Peterson was representing him today; Don Ewell from Rocky Mt. Power; and Commissioner Darlene Burns

The minutes were reviewed. Mark Raymond moved for approval, seconded by Wayne Dunbar. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Paul talked about the State Council meeting in April, which was held at the Western Energy Training Center in Carbon County, and about the Incumbent Worker Program. It was decided that by the State Council that 40% of available WIA monies will be used for this program.

Paul recognized Kimberly Karren and Shanna Wopsock as outgoing members of the Council and presented them with a plaque. He then introduced Tammie Lucero as the new chair. Judy then presented Paul with a gift for his work as Chair of the Council. Judy thanked him for all his hard work in representing us at State Council. Paul then turned over the meeting to Tammie.

#### Committee Reports

Randall reported on the Duchesne County Employers Committee. They have been looking at developing a drug court such as in Uintah County, and have had several meetings with great support. However, after trying for some grant money they were turned down. It was felt like they learned a lot from the process, and plan on continuing to try to establish a drug court in the area. The Committee has had several discussions on different seminars. This past quarter they helped promote the meth video and had good turnout.

Bill reported on the Vernal Employer Committee. He announced that the annual Uintah Basin Business Symposium will be held on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. Mountain America Credit Union and UBET have agreed to be major sponsors. For an employers seminar, the Committee also promoted the meth movie, which was well attended. They were able to fill the movie theatre with one showing and almost filled to capacity on the 2<sup>nd</sup> showing. Bill

discussed the economics on the Basin and what's happening in the Vernal. Staples is coming to Vernal in the old Christensen's Building, Lowe's is coming, but they are not the developers of the property. The developers said they are very close to an agreement on a new restaurant that will be locating there as well. Aaron's Furniture is moving along, located east of the Glines Chapel. Walgreen's is coming to Vernal after the Heber store is completed. Holiday Inn Express is now open, and they have 63 rooms. The meeting room will be available after 10:00 am for lunch and dinner meetings. The owner has indicated a willingness to cater to the tourist market.

Youth Council – Bob gave the report. Wayne Griffin, the vice-chair, has retired from the Council. He has been a very dedicated member. Both DWS Offices completed a Youth Leadership Service project – Vernal assembled playground equipment at the new homeless shelter, and Roosevelt helped at the Roosevelt Library with National Library Week, cleaned the Roosevelt Library and read *Pigs in a Pancake* to young patrons.

Randall updated the Council about the Healthcare Taskforce. At the last meeting, they had CEU representatives in attendance, and CEU announced they are planning on sponsoring an RN program in the Basin that can take 20 students a year. UBATC has been taking the lead in coordinating this effort. USU has also been instrumental in helping along the process. There are still some accreditation and approval hurdles to meet, but the program is targeted to start in January, 2008. John Wahl spoke about some of the progression, saying adjunct staff are available, as several RN's with their Master Degrees are willing to teach for CEU. Randall said there is very positive news coming from the Healthcare Task Force. Judy congratulated everyone for their work on getting this program here. Tammie asked how people know about it. Randall said there has already been public meetings with over 30 prospective RN students in attendance. Weber will continue to operate their on-line program. Bob Peterson said that USU will also be offering accounting and entrepreneurial degrees beginning this fall.

Training Vendor Application: Tara Connolly from the DWS office in Salt Lake spoke about the Training Vendor Application, saying that the Regional Council is required to review and approve/deny applications from vendors in its region. Requirements from a vendor include being registered as a school, be registered with Utah Consumer Protection, have refund and grievance policy, etc. Walsh and Weathers have submitted an application. Tara indicated they have met all the qualifications. Bill Johnson made the motion to approve, Irene seconded. Mark asked Shirley to give input before the vote.

Shirley talked about a pilot project they conducted to assist individuals with disabilities who want to start their own business. They have structured the workshop around the most frequent questions they have encountered. The workshop talks about pros and cons of starting a business, how to write a business plan, where to get help, how to explore special financing options for people with disabilities, and helping determine all the resources that are out there. Irene said that she has worked with Bill and Shirley and has been very impressed with what they have been doing. A vote was then taken and the application was unanimously approved.

Tara indicated that the State Council would have to give final approval and will do so at the next meeting, but Walsh and Weathers are approved provisionally at this time, and can begin to serve DWS applicants.

Steve Maas was unable to attend and discuss the effort to recruit out-of-state workers. Bob gave the information and had everyone refer to the handout in the packet. GoEd, Governor's Office of Economic Development conducted a pilot project last year which focused on engineers, and developed approximately 150 people/resumes who indicated some interest. One obstacle is that this type of recruitment is expensive – Media One (advertising conglomerate that works with Deseret News and the Salt Lake Tribune) gave a proposal for \$600,000, which far exceeded the budget. Bob will try to get someone out to give more information at the next meeting. Lana said that SOS has been recruiting out-of-state and it is very expensive. They have been utilizing web sites, such as Career Builder and other SOS offices. The Biggest successes have been Career Fairs with give away-type incentives. Bill suggested that Jason Perry from GOED could come and update the Council at its next meeting.

Floyd Wyasket gave a report on the Ute Tribe and the Neola Fire. The fire started in Duchesne County and quickly spread to Uintah County, including a portion of the reservation. The tribe has been working with several agencies to check and assess the damage. The fire has burned 50,000 acres, but is now about 90% contained. Floyd has seen the damage and is amazed at what did and did not burn. The Tribe is looking into how it can help with fencing for cattle, housing, clothing, cleanup, etc. There is a community fundraiser on Monday in Roosevelt and one is planned in Vernal in the future. He passed a flyer around for all to see. He said there was great cooperation from so many people in fighting the fire. It brought the communities together. If there is a next time, they will be better prepared. Power has been restored to all areas as Moon Lake Electric worked quickly. The FBI is still investigating the cause of the fire. The fire is still burning on the forest lands in the North area. Professionals are still assessing the effect on the watershed, and rehabilitation needed. Another meeting is tonight at Lapoint Elementary School.

Irene commented that tourism will be affected because of the fires in the State. Toni reported that if people bought food with Food Stamps and the food was destroyed or ruined, they can replace the funds and repurchase the food. Shanna said that contacting the Ute Tribe Public Relations Office to get news on the Tuesday Tribe Radio Program would be quite helpful. Darlene said people who lost anything, such as fences, food, livestock, housing, need to know the resources to help with funding or replacing assets. She emphasized again the public meeting this evening and another next Tuesday.

Toni provided information on the Incumbent Worker Training program. DWS will be accepting proposals beginning August 13<sup>th</sup>. The proposals must be turned in by September 28<sup>th</sup>. There will be two trainings on the Incumbent Worker Training Program on July 31<sup>st</sup>. They will be held in both Vernal and Roosevelt. The time for the Roosevelt meeting is 1:00 p.m. and Vernal is 3:30 p.m. Randall said that UBMC received a large grant this last time to help with training and feel it is very worthwhile to consider

submitting a grant. John said that he would help anyone with proofing the grant application. Brian Raymond asked about whether small employers could apply and it was indicated that they would be able to, or even a group of employers with the same training needs could form a consortium and come together such as with the Chamber of Commerce. Paul said that it was important for DWS to advertise this. Judy indicated that there will be mailings to all employers, as well as news releases.

Judy gave the Regional Director's Report. This July marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DWS. The Department will be celebrating this month with different activities. We just consolidated with the Medicaid section of the Department of Health. She reviewed the performance measures and said the Eastern Region has done very well overall. The Goals set by the State and those measures that are shaded green indicates being tops in the State. She has been quite pleased with the FEP participation rate, which has been consistently above 50%. In the last year, federal law changed and meeting those mandates has been a challenge, but we topped the State in participation. Our region continues to be one of the best in the State in Business services. On-line services has been the greatest challenge with most of our employers prefer the personal touch.

Margo gave a report on the local offices. Lowe's has posted seven management positions with the Vernal DWS Office. They hope to be open by the end of October. There has been very little in staffing changes; Roosevelt had one opening, which they have filled. Both Employer Committees helped sponsor the American Meth movie. Also, both offices have participated with highway cleanup. Vernal has continued to be involved with the schools, helping with Reality Town, mock job interviews, classroom speakers, etc.

The next meeting will be the Council of Councils Oct. 11-12 in Cedar City. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.